From: McGovern, Marc
To: Stella Bender
Subject: Re: Regarding HP boycott
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:33:45 PM

As I said, I am not an expert in this area and that is part of the reason I am not supporting this order (if it even comes before us). This is complicated. I sat with folks from the ADL who said that of course they take border crossing seriously because of their concern for terrorist attacks. How can I tell them that they are overreacting? I appreciate your feedback I have my doubts that this will even come before us, but we will have to see. It only takes one councillor to file a policy order.

Marc McGovern
Mayor, City of Cambridge
795 Mass. Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4321 (office)
617-642-1731 (cell)

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From: Stella Bender <stellarbender@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:20:36 PM
To: McGovern, Marc
Subject: Re: Regarding HP boycott

Thank you for your response.
First of all, the poor Palestinians that you sympathize with, have turned down their own state at least five times since 1947.
Instead they have chosen violence, which hasn't gotten them anything except poverty.
It's their leaders who have sold them down the river
Blaming Israel is the ignorant and cowards way out

On many of today's campuses, Jewish students are being harassed and physically abused and threatened
Swastikas are appearing and we see the words Kill the Jews, Hitler was right, or Put them all back in the gas chambers
Jewish students need your help and support Boycotting their organizations or not funding them etc only makes the situation worse Supporting BDS escalates the problem It is time to teach love and peace and discussion opposing issues , not supporting bullying antisemitic resolutions

Just a suggestion...ask Palestinians living in Israel and those living under Hamas, who is happier, who has a higher standard of living, and who has a better more fulfilling life. You will notice that the great majority of responses are much happier in Israel proper.

What exactly do you expect. Israel to do.
If all the Palestinians move to Israel, they will have a huge majority and the country would no longer be a democracy
Gaza voted to allow Hamas to rule , so in all probability Hamas, (a terrorist organization who uses our tax dollar donations to reward killing Jews, any Jews, babies etc.). would control the country.
It would be suicide for Israel

is this what you want .
Also you may not be aware, but Israelis have been treating Syrian casualties in their hospitals
Do you really think this would be reciprocated?
Israel is the only democracy in the region It is also the only country that doesn't disrespect us and burn our American flag
Women have civil rights and are equal to men

In conclusion, Palestinians could have had much happier lives if they had accepted their own country years ago, but as they always stated , they want ALL of Israel

Punishing businesses that deal with Israel is ludicrous
You have the power to make the RIGHT decision!
Thank you for your response
Stella Bender

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 19, 2018, at 2:01 PM, Mayor Marc McGovern <mmcgovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Dear Stella,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed policy order asking the City of Cambridge to no longer take part in a state program allowing us to purchase Hewlett Packard products at a reduced cost given HP's relationship with the Israeli government.

Over the course of the last few weeks there has been a great deal of misinformation circulating. Please allow me to explain what I know of this issue.

I and other Councillors were approached a few months ago by local Cambridge residents and representatives of MA Against HP and asked if we would sponsor a policy order requesting that the City Manager not renew our participation in this program and terminate our relationship with HP.

Although I don't claim to be an expert on the Middle East, many of the issues raised regarding how Palestinians are being treated concerned me. I then reached out to the Anti-Defamation League for further information and discussion. They shared their concerns about human rights violations as well, but also raised concerns about the

Boycott Divest Sanction (BDS) movement.

As I began to learn more about the issue I looked more closely at the BDS movement. I became equally concerned about some of their stances and positions. As much as I don't want Cambridge to be indirectly supporting those who engage in human rights violations, I also don't want Cambridge associated with a movement that has made anti-Semitic comments. It quickly became clear that this issue went far beyond Cambridge.

Anyone who has followed me knows that human rights issues are cornerstone to my work. As a social worker for over 25 years, I have dedicated my life to working with oppressed, marginalized and vulnerable individuals and groups. While on the Cambridge School Committee I led the effort to close Cambridge Public Schools for the Muslim holiday of Eid out of respect for our Muslim students and families. As a City Councillor I took action that led to Cambridge creating a Liaison of Immigrant Affairs position and started a legal defense fund to support immigrants facing deportation. I am proud of the work I have done, with the help of many, to stand up against hatred and racism.

This issue raised a larger question for me: "What relationships, political or financial, does the City have with other companies or countries who are considered to violate human rights?" This should be a larger conversation and not one that centers on just one relationship.

I have received emails saying things like: "I can't believe the Cambridge City Council is considering this." Let me explain how the process works. Any individual Councillor has the authority to place a policy order or resolution on the agenda. The item must be placed on the agenda by 3:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the next Monday's meeting (so for something to appear on the April 23rd agenda, it must be submitted by 3 pm on Thursday, April 19th). It is only after something is placed on the agenda that it comes before the City Council. So the Council does not consider anything until the item is before us and as of the deadline of the 19th, no order was filed regarding this issue.

So, in a nutshell, this is not an issue that the Council raised on our own. This is an issue brought to us (as is often the case and I encourage) from a group of concerned residents, many of whom I know and respect. The date of the 23rd was put out , not by the City Council, but by MA Against HP because they thought a Councillor would sponsor the order.

NO ORDER HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR APRIL 23RD. THERFORE THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THAT MEETING.

Again, it is possible that an order could appear on the agenda of a future meeting.

I hope this explains my thinking as well as the process. Thank you again for your emails and participation and passion regarding this issue and our community.

Sincerely,

Marc McGovern
Mayor
City of Cambridge

Mayor Marc McGovern | 795 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

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